

INFORMATION PLAN FOR BONN ASSAILED

Press Fears Ministry Project
Might Lead to Propaganda
Agency—Allies Worried

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BONN, Germany, Sept. 25—Opinion is being mobilized in West Germany to prevent the establishment of an information ministry, which its opponents fear might infringe the freedom of the press and provide the framework for a future propaganda apparatus of the Goebbels type.

German journalists working in the capital appealed to the Government and Parliament today not to support the creation of such an agency. Their appeal was made in a resolution overwhelmingly approved by the Federal Press Conference, the Bonn equivalent of the press gallery at the Capitol in Washington.

The resolution said the association saw no reason for an information ministry, "which is unusual in democratic states," and that such a ministry might "strengthen tendencies aiming at infringement of the freedom and independence of the press."

During the last few days representatives of the United States, Britain and France have also been showing increasing concern about the projected ministry, and the United States High Commissioner's Office is opposed to such an agency.

As originally conceived, the ministry allegedly would have had vaguely defined political intelligence as well as information functions, but that idea has been abandoned.

Official quarters resented the resolution of the journalists. The news service of the Christian Democrat party charged that the journalists were politically biased. It quoted official quarters as denying the assertion that there existed tendencies aiming at infringement of the freedom of the press and said discussions of the Information Ministry were based on the ultimate goal of improving the public information service.

According to a news agency report, Dr. Konrad Adenauer, West German Chancellor, announced late tonight at his Black Forest vacation resort that "from the very first we had always opposed establishment of an information ministry." The Government press office could not confirm the report.

Concern for Future

Allied representatives here believe the Chancellor will see the dangers inherent in a centralized information service. Their concern is for the future, when someone without his scruples might convert the agency into a new totalitarian ministry of public enlightenment and propaganda.

The first published account of the ministry project appeared last month, before the West German general election, in *Der Spiegel*, a weekly news magazine, which named Dr. Hans Globke, personnel director of Dr. Adenauer's Chancellery, and Dr. Otto Lenz, Secretary of State for Domestic Affairs in the Chancellery and proposed head of the new ministry, as authors of the plan.

Dr. Lenz is known as an able and ambitious government employe to whom Dr. Adenauer is indebted for past services. A lawyer, he entered public service under the Weimar Republic, resigned his post in the Ministry of Interior in 1938 and was imprisoned by the Nazis as a member of the underground in 1944.

After his liberation he became

one of the founders of the Christian Democratic Union, Dr. Adenauer's party, in Berlin and in 1950 was appointed to his present post.

He has had notable success in building up public support for the present regime in West Germany and in the Sept. 6 election was rewarded with a seat in the new Bundestag, the lower house of Parliament.

His friends say that he is a sincere advocate of the use of public relations techniques to sustain democracy in Germany, but he has been hotly opposed by those who for personal or political reasons dislike the information ministry project.

Attacked by Unions

Dr. Globke, who was in the Nazi Ministry of the Interior and helped prepare its interpretation of the notorious Nuremberg racial laws, has been more directly attacked.

In 1950 the West German Trade Union Federation published an account of his career in a White Paper called "Enemies of Democracy," and the opposition Social Democratic party has demanded that he be discharged. Replying to the Socialists in the Bundestag in 1950, Dr. Adenauer said that Dr. Globke, who was not a Nazi party member, had been thoroughly checked by the occupying powers.

Der Spiegel asserted that these two men wanted to create a "super ministry" in which "the two most important elements for the control of a modern state"—information and propaganda—would be merged.

The magazine asserted the ministry would combine the present Federal Press Office, the Federal Office for Internal Services, whose task has been to win public support for democratic principles, and an intelligence service headed by Reinhard Gehlen, a former general who once operated a post-war intelligence service in Germany for the United States.

Dr. Adenauer subsequently denied that there was any intention to amalgamate the intelligence and information services, and *Der Spiegel* appeared this week with a new version of the ministry project, omitting the intelligence aspect.

The revised plan, the magazine said, would combine all the press and publicity activities of the Government, create new film and radio services and authorize the ministry to draft a press law.